

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 07417 261541Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 L-03 PM-05
NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 EB-08 COME-00 /093 W
-----082510 261624Z /43

R 252207Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8538
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7417

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, VE
SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN REACTIONS TO AMB. RICHARDSON'S PRESS STATEMENT

REFS: STATE 170021, STATE 169685

SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO AMB. RICHARDSON'S PRESS STATEMENT, BOTH FOREIGN
MINISTER CONSALVI AND GOV LOS EXPERT AGUILAR HAVE MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS
JUSTIFYING LOS POSITION OF LDCS. CONSALVI CRITICIZED NEFARIOUS
INFLUENCE OF TNCS AND SAID UNILATERAL DECISIONS ARE NOT LEGITIMATE.
IN Milder TONES, AGUILAR MAINTAINED THAT THE NEW "COMPOSITE TEXT"
CONTAINS IMPORTANT CHANGES IN LANGUAGE WHICH PROTECT LDC INTERESTS
AND THAT USG WITHDRAWAL FROM NEGOTIATIONS IS UNLIKELY. END SUMMARY.

1. CONSALVI, TNCS, AND LOS

IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AS FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 23(SEE SEPTTEL
)
SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI SAID THAT PRESSURES FROM TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS
APPEAR TO BE THE KEY REASON FOR FAILURE TO REACH LOS AGREEMENT. "...THE TNCS
(BELIEVE) THAT THE SEA IS THE REMAINING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 07417 261541Z

ALTERNATIVE FOR THEM." CONSALVI ADDED THAT ACCEPTANCE OF TNC PRESSURES
IS NOT POSSIBLE SINCE THE UN HAS DECLARED THE HIGH SEAS TO BE THE COMMON
PATRIMONY OF MANKIND AND CONSEQUENTLY THERE CANNOT BE UNILATERAL DECISIONS
BY ANY ONE COUNTRY. CONSALVI ENDED BY NOTING THAT VENEZUELAN DELEGATION
WILL DO ALL WITHIN ITS POWER TO SEE THAT AN LOS AGREEMENT IS REACHED,
AN AGREEMENT WHICH "DOES NOT HARM THE RIGHTS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND WHICH WILL

NOT DISTURB THE PRESENT WORLD ORDER."

2. ANDRES AGUILAR DEFENDS "COMPOSITE TEXT"

IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW IN DAILY "EL NATIONAL" JULY 24, VENEZUELAN LOS EXPERT ANDRES AGUILAR DISCUSSED PRESENT STATE OF LOS PLAY. AGUILAR NOTED THAT MUCH PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED LOS SESSION AND THAT DEEP SEABED ISSUE IS THE MOST CRITICAL OF THE MANY ISSUES FACING THE LOS NEGOTIATORS. AGUILAR DENIED THAT THE NEW "COMPOSITE TEXT" WAS WRITTEN IN PRIVATE. RATHER, HE SAID, THE "COMPOSITE TEXT" DRAFTING GROUP WAS COMPOSED OF CONFERENCE PRESIDENT AND COMMISSION CHAIRMEN WHO WERE CALLED UPON TO DRAFT A TEXT WHICH CONTAINED ALL ELEMENTS IN ONE SINGLE DOCUMENT. THE TEXT, ACCORDING TO AGUILAR, IS NOT MERELY A JUXTAPOSITION OF VARIOUS GROUPS' VIEWS, BUT RATHER THE CONFERENCE GAVE LEEWAY TO THE DRAFTING GROUP TO MAKE CHANGES WHICH IN THEIR JUDGMENT COULD MAKE THE TEXT MORE ACCEPTABLE, WITH A VIEW TO EXAMINING IT IN THE NEXT SESSIONS IN GENEVA. AGUILAR NOTED AS WELL, "IN THIS TEXT THERE ARE IMPORTANT CHANGES WHICH SOLIDIFY THE LDC POSITION CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF THEIR INTERESTS." AGUILAR THEN DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL DC AND LDC POSITIONS ON DEEP SEABED MINING, WITH LDCS GENERALLY SUPPORTING CONCEPT OF SINGLE REGIME FOR SEABED AUTHORITY, AND DCS, ON THE CONTRARY, PUSHING FOR PARALLEL REGIME. HE NOTED THAT WHILE VENEZUELA SUPPORTED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CARACA 07417 261541Z

THE SINGLE REGIME FOR THE SEABED AUTHORITY, IT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER PARELLEL SYSTEM. HE ENDED ON UPBEAT NOTE, SAYING THAT UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL OF A MAJOR STATE (READ USG) WOULD BE DIFFICULT TODAY. "LEGITIMACY IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THESE THINGS."

3. COMMENT: GOV WAS CLEARLY TAKEN ABACK BY RICHARDSON'S STATEMENT WHICH IT INTERPRETS AS OFFERING THE POTENTIAL THREAT OF WITHDRAWAL. CONSALVI BEAT HIS FAVORITE HOBBY HORSE (THE TNCS), WHILE AGUILAR ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY COMPOSITE TEXT DRAFTING GROUP'S ACTIONS SINCE GROUP, ACCORDING TO HIM, HAD A CONFERENCE MANDATE TO PRODUCE A NEW TEXT. MENTION BY AGUILAR THAT VENEZUELA MIGHT BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT PARALLEL REGIME RATHER THAN SINGLE REGIME HOWEVER MAY REFLECT SOME FLEXIBILITY IN VENEZUELAN LOS POSITION. IN ANY CASE, LOS MAY BE ONE OF THE ISSUES WHICH WILL TEND TO DAMPEN THE VENEZUELAN'S EUPHORIA ON THE HEELS OF THE STATE VISIT TO WASHINGTON. VAKY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, AMBASSADORS, PRESS CONFERENCES, MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CARACA07417
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770266-0540
Format: TEL
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770724/aaaaaujm.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5fd58264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 170021, 77 STATE 169685
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1763453
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VENEZUELAN REACTIONS TO AMB. RICHARDSON'S PRESS STATEMENT
TAGS: PLOS, VE, US, (RICHARDSON, ELLIOT L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5fd58264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009